



For information (or as indicated) contact:

Chris Shofner

**Public Information Officer/Grant Writer
The City of Murfreesboro, Tenn.**

111 Vine St.
P.O. Box 1139
Murfreesboro, TN 37133-1139
Phone: (615) 848-3245
Mobile: (615) 642-3230
Email: cshofner@murfreesborotn.gov

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MURFREESBORO, Tenn. -- By Sept. 1, the city will for the first time begin accepting credit cards for citizens' transactions with its City Court and Water and Sewer Department, said Murfreesboro Information Technology Director Chris Lilly.

Called Murfreesboro EZ Pay Portal, the service is only one of many new programs designed to make business with the city more convenient for its citizens – its customers.

"We have also added an electronic check option," Lilly said. "All payments will be processed through the Tennessee Information Consortium (TIC) payment processing system.

"We will also be opening our online Pay Counter," Lilly continued. "This pay counter will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week and will allow our citizens – our customers – to submit online payment from the convenience of their homes or anywhere in the world."

The system will eventually be available in all city departments that welcome the public directly.

"Other departments will be phased in as the system to accept credit cards in those two departments matures," Lilly said. "All departments that do business with the public will eventually offer this service to their customers.

"Our goal is to expand credit card acceptance to all city points-of-sale counters by the end of year," the director added. "Initially, this will include parks and recreation, building and codes permits and property taxes."

As is true city-wide, Murfreesboro EZ Pay Portal is being implemented in phases, MWSD Business Manager Doug Swann noted.

"We're offering this as an easier way for some customers to pay their bills," he said.

City Court's Chief Court Clerk Vickie Ordonez agreed.

"We look forward to offering this option at our counter," she said.

"EZ Pay Portal is a convenient and reliable method for our citizens to monitor and pay all city fees using electronic payment options such as Visa, Mastercard, Discover, American Express or any other type of card," she added.